

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, WATERKEEPER
ALLIANCE, INC., and RIVERKEEPER, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY and ANDREW WHEELER, in his official capacity as
Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection
Agency,

Defendants.

No. 20 Civ. 6572 (JSR)

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' CROSS-MOTION TO
DISMISS OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

AUDREY STRAUSS
Acting United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York
86 Chambers Street, 3rd Floor
New York, New York 10007
Tel.: (212) 637-2737
Fax: (212) 637-2702
Email: lucas.issacharoff@usdoj.gov

LUCAS ISSACHAROFF
Assistant United States Attorney
– Of Counsel –

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	i
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES	ii
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT	1
BACKGROUND	3
I. The Temporary Enforcement Policy.....	3
A. The Nature and Scope of the Policy	3
B. NPDES “Waivers”	6
C. Termination of the Policy	7
D. Prior Litigation.....	7
II. Statutory and Regulatory Background.....	8
ARGUMENT.....	9
I. Plaintiffs Lack Standing.....	9
A. Legal Requirements for Standing	9
B. Plaintiffs Lack Injury in Fact	10
C. Plaintiffs Cannot Show that Any Injury Is Fairly Traceable to the Alleged Violation or Likely to Be Redressed by a Favorable Ruling	14
D. Plaintiffs Cannot Demonstrate Organizational Standing	16
II. Plaintiffs’ Complaint Is Mooted by the Termination of the Policy	18
III. Plaintiffs Fail to State a Claim Under the ESA.....	20
A. The Policy Is Not an “Action” Under the ESA.....	21
B. The Policy Does Not Have “Effects” Under the ESA’s Implementing Regulations..	23
IV. Plaintiffs’ APA Claim Is Precluded as a Matter of Law.....	24
V. Plaintiffs’ Proposed Remedies Are Premature	24
CONCLUSION.....	26

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases

<i>Access 4 All, Inc. v. Trump Int’l Hotel & Tower Condo.</i> , 458 F. Supp. 2d 160 (S.D.N.Y. 2006).....	10
<i>Am. Bar Ass’n v. F.T.C.</i> , 636 F.3d 641 (D.C. Cir. 2011).....	19
<i>Am. Fuel & Petrochemical Mfrs. v. EPA</i> , 937 F.3d 559 (D.C. Cir 2019).....	25
<i>Am. Soc’y for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals v. Feld Entm’t, Inc.</i> , 659 F.3d 13 (D.C. Cir. 2011).....	17
<i>Bennett v. Spear</i> , 520 U.S. 154 (1997).....	24
<i>Bernstein/Glazer, LLC v. Babbitt</i> , No. 99 Civ. 1195 JGK, 2000 WL 322778 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 28, 2000).....	24
<i>Cal. Sportfishing Prot. All. v. FERC</i> , 472 F.3d 593 (9th Cir. 2006).....	22
<i>Church of Scientology v. United States</i> , 506 U.S. 9 (1992).....	18, 23
<i>City of New York v. Pierce</i> , 609 F. Supp. 798 (S.D.N.Y. 1985).....	20
<i>Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc. v. City of New York</i> , 594 F.3d 94 (2d Cir. 2010).....	19
<i>County of Suffolk v. Sebelius</i> , 605 F.3d 135 (2d Cir. 2010).....	18
<i>Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. EPA</i> , 861 F.3d 174 (D.C. Cir. 2017).....	20, 25
<i>Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. Hamilton</i> , 385 F. Supp. 2d 1330 (N.D. Ga. 2005).....	24
<i>Dep’t of Commerce v. U.S. House of Representatives</i> , 525 U.S. 316 (1999).....	10
<i>FEC v. Akins</i> , 524 U.S. 11 (1998).....	16
<i>Friends of Animals v. Jewell</i> , 828 F.3d 989 (D.C. Cir. 2016).....	16, 17
<i>Friends of Santa Clara River v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> , 887 F.3d 906 (9th Cir. 2018).....	24
<i>Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Adver. Comm’n</i> , 432 U.S. 333 (1977).....	10
<i>Karuk Tribe of Cal. v. U.S. Forest Serv.</i> , 681 F.3d 1006 (9th Cir. 2012).....	22
<i>Lamar Advert. of Penn, LLC v. Town of Orchard Park</i> , 356 F.3d 365 (2d Cir. 2004).....	19, 20
<i>Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife</i> , 504 U.S. 555 (1992).....	10, 13, 15

..

<i>Mhany Mgmt., Inc. v. County of Nassau</i> , 819 F.3d 581 (2d Cir. 2016).....	19
<i>N.Y. Civil Liberties Union v. N.Y.C. Transit Auth.</i> , 684 F.3d 286 (2d Cir. 2012).....	10
<i>Nat'l Ass'n of Home Builders v. Defs. of Wildlife</i> , 551 U.S. 644 (2007).....	18
<i>Nat'l Ass'n of Home Builders v. Salazar</i> , 827 F. Supp. 2d 1 (D.D.C. 2011).....	18
<i>Nat'l Black Police Ass'n v. District of Columbia</i> , 108 F.3d 346 (D.C. Cir. 1997).....	19
<i>Nat. Res. Def. Council v. Bodine</i> , No. 20 Civ. 3058 (CM), 2020 WL 3838017 (S.D.N.Y. July 8, 2020).....	passim
<i>Nat. Res. Def. Council v. Dep't of Interior</i> , 410 F. Supp. 3d 582 (S.D.N.Y. 2019).....	16
<i>Nat. Res. Def. Council v. FHFA</i> , 815 F. Supp. 2d 630 (S.D.N.Y.2011).....	14
<i>O'Shea v. Littleton</i> , 414 U.S. 488 (1974).....	13, 23
<i>Powell v. McCormack</i> , 395 U.S. 486 (1969).....	18
<i>Salmon Spawning & Recovery All. v. Ahern</i> , No. 05 Civ. 1878Z, 2010 WL 890047 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 9, 2010).....	22
<i>Sierra Club v. Babbitt</i> , 65 F.3d 1502 (9th Cir. 1995).....	22
<i>Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins</i> , 136 S. Ct. 1540 (2016).....	9, 10, 14
<i>Summers v. Earth Island Inst.</i> , 555 U.S. 488 (2009).....	11, 13
<i>Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus</i> , 573 U.S. 149 (2014).....	11
<i>Town of Babylon v. FHFA</i> , 699 F.3d 221 (2d Cir. 2012).....	14
<i>Van Wie v. Pataki</i> , 267 F.3d 109 (2d Cir. 2001).....	20
<i>W. Watersheds Project v. Matejko</i> , 468 F.3d 1099 (9th Cir. 2006).....	22
<i>Warth v. Seldin</i> , 422 U.S. 490 (1975).....	9

Statutes

5 U.S.C. § 704.....	24
16 U.S.C. § 1536.....	8, 20, 21, 24
16 U.S.C. § 1540.....	24
33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 to 1387.....	6

...

Regulations

40 C.F.R. § 122.44 6
40 C.F.R. § 122.48 6
50 C.F.R. § 402.02 8, 21, 23
50 C.F.R. § 402.05 9
50 C.F.R. § 402.14 23, 25

Other Authorities

13C Fed. Prac. & Proc. § 3533.7 19

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.